

REMARKS

Claims 30-37 are now pending. By this Amendment, claims 5-9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28 and 29 are canceled; claim 30 is amended; and claims 32-37 are added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Wong in the March 10, 2004 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 5-9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28 and 29 are withdrawn from consideration. The withdrawn claims are canceled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

The specification is objected to for failing to fully cross reference the parent application. The specification is amended herein in order to fully cross reference this application. Therefore, the objection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. As suggested in the Office Action, claim 30 has been amended to recite "irradiates at least part of the object to be treated." Based on this amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the indefiniteness rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 30 and 31 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being incomplete. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As recited in claim 30, the object to be treated has a surface that permits generation of charged particles when irradiated with a laser beam. As such, the part of the object to be treated that is irradiated acts as an electrode. See, for example, the last three lines on page 1 of the specification. In addition, as also described at this portion of the specification, the non-irradiated part of the object to be treated may act as an opposite electrode. Alternatively, as recited in claim 31, a separate opposite electrode may be in the electrolyte solution. Thus,

although claim 30 does not recite an electrode that is separate from the object to be treated, it is respectfully submitted that this claim does not fail to recite any essential elements.

Claims 30 and 31 recite the essential elements of the claimed invention. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being incomplete should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Rentzepis et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 30 has been amended to replace the recitations of "is held" with the term "holding." This amendment does not change the scope of the claim but clarifies that the electrolyte solution bath holds both an electrolyte solution and an object to be treated.

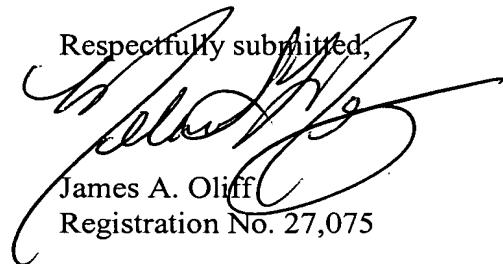
Rentzepis does not teach an electrolyte solution bath holding an electrolyte solution containing ions to constitute an electrodeposited film. The Office Action points to high-vacuum assembly 40 as being an electrolyte solution bath. However, Rentzepis does not teach that the high-vacuum assembly 40 contains an electrolyte solution.

Rentzepis does not teach each and every feature of the present claims. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Rentzepis should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In addition to the amendments discussed above, claim 30 has been amended to more positively recite the pulse laser. Specifically, the amendments clarify that the pulse laser is a device that outputs a laser beam whose pulse width is less than a picosecond. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments merely clarify and do not narrow the scope of claim 30.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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